



The Harbinger

Newsletter of the
Illinois Native Plant Society

APRIL 2018
Vol. 35, No. 1

"... dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois."



Harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), the namesake species for the newsletter and journal of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Photo: Cassi Saari.

Editorial

There is a lot happening botanically in the state and I hope you find the information in this issue helpful. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to other people. Also, I ask you to please send INPS any articles and information you think could be useful to share in *The Harbinger* or Listserv. We want to highlight the projects and initiatives going on in the state.

In This Issue

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • President's Message | • 365 Days on iNaturalist |
| • Welcome New Members | • Botany Basics: Terminal Buds |
| • INPS Chapter News | • Ozark Hills Nature Preserve |
| • Robert H. Mohlenbrock Bio | • Plant Profiles |
| | • Invasive Species News |

Governing Board

President

Paul Marcum

Past President

Chris Benda

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Angela Kerber

Treasurer

Jim Payne

Erigenia Editor

Dr. John Taft

Harbinger

Editor: Chris Benda

Layout: Marta Witt

Membership

Amanda Pankau

Webmaster

Jeff Nelson

At-Large Board

Susanne Masi

Jean Sellar

Jason Zylka

Message from the President



Phewww, we made it! Blooms of witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and the study of bryophytes, winter tree buds, and bark got us through the rough patch but now we're on to serious mass blooming season. Think Full Glorious Bloom (FGB) times 100. Spring is in the air and not even a late March snow storm can stop it now. Birds are singing and wildflowers and trees are starting to flower. The soft, fresh, green color of new foliage is a sight for sore eyes and ample reason to break out of those winter doldrums. Just like the plants, the Illinois Native Plant Society is ramping up for another busy year of incredible hikes to see amazing wildflowers and trees, native plant sales that will blow your mind, and identification workshops and symposia to sharpen your skills.

Already this year, the state INPS has been busy with the reinstated INPS grants program. This year, we were overwhelmed by all of the amazing projects that were submitted and decided to increase our grants program to \$9,000 for 2018. Also, the Kankakee Torrent Chapter had sold-out attendance for their Community Habitat Symposium in Joliet in February. Stay tuned to the INPS website (<https://ill-inps.org/>) for future events held across the state by our seven regional chapters. Remember, as a member of INPS you have all of Illinois available to you, not just the region of your home chapter. Highlights of upcoming events include the Southern Chapter's Indigenous Plants Symposium and associated native plant sale with partner Green Earth (April 13-15), Central Chapter's mega native plant sale (April 28), and of course, our Annual Gathering, this year hosted by the Kankakee Torrent Chapter (June 8-10).

I also want to use this space to thank all of our members for their continued support. Special thanks also to our recent donors and especially to our newest Life Members: Cassi Saari (Northeast Chapter), Daniel Johns (Northeast Chapter), Joy Alwan (Kankakee Torrent Chapter), and Marika Josephson of Scratch Brewing Company (Southern Chapter), for their generous donations. Other donations were made by George Adamopoulos, Roger Anderson, and Stephen Tillman. INPS is a 100% volunteer-run organization and without the support and hard work of our generous members we would not be able to fulfill our mission. We also bid farewell to one of our most loyal members, Rachel Goad. Rachel, a long-time INPS board member and Secretary, has left her position with the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern program and is heading east to do great things for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. We wish Rachel all the best and thank her for everything she has done for our Society; a full list of her contributions would far exceed the space provided in this entire issue of *The Harbinger*.

Hope to see you all out on the trails,

Paul B. Marcum, President

INPS Chapters

NORTHEAST CHAPTER **Chicago**

Daniel Lopez (President)
northeast.inps@gmail.com

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER **Rock Island**

Bo Dziadyk (President)
bohndandziadyk@augustana.edu

GRAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER **Bloomington/Normal**

Joe Armstrong (President)
jearmstr@ilstu.edu

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER **Champaign/Urbana, Danville**

Connie Cunningham (President)
conniejcunningham@gmail.com

KANKAKEE TORRENT CHAPTER - Bourbonnais

Floyd Catchpole (President)
fcatchpole@comcast.net

CENTRAL CHAPTER **Springfield**

Trish Quintenz (President)
trishquintenz@gmail.com

SOUTHERN CHAPTER **Carbondale**

Chris Benda (President)
southernillinoisplants@gmail.com



Check out the [Illinois Native Plant Society Events Calendar](#) for Chapter meetings and workshops.

Welcome New Members

At Large

George Adamopoulos
Thomas Priscal

Central Chapter

Sylvia Bradley
Teresa Considine
Aangi Dornblaser-Miles
Jim Herget
David Hoover
Elmer King
Kathi & Peter Knope
Don Krefft
Bryan Sim
Tim Tvrdek-Fortin
Sheila Voss

Quad Cities Chapter

Christine McCarthy
Rafael Medina
Denise Oberle
Lee Ann Wille

Kankakee Torrent

Joy Alwan*
Kyle Banas
Eric Kelleher
Andy Neill
Michelle Pearion
Judith Studer
Lisa Voltolina

Southern Chapter

Kimberlee Blair
Wesley Calvert
Stella Conrady
Judy Groskind
Marika Josephson* (Scratch
Brewing Company)
Christopher Lee
Jenny Lesko
Gwendolyn Murphy
David & Laura Sain
Quinton & Ramona Schwengel
James Waycuilis

Northeast Chapter

David Bart
Kevin Clarke
Becky Collings
Amanda Dickson
Daniel Johns*
Michelle Mann
Laura Milkert
Trinity Pierce
Nathanael Pilla
Cynthia Roebuck
Cassi Saari*
Charles Scannell
Eileen Sutter
Larry A. Unruh
Lauren Virnoche

Forest Glen Chapter

Deanna Carlock
Stacey Knight-Davis
Piper Martin

*** New Life Member**

Chapter News

2018 INPS Research Grant Awards Announced

Students, citizen scientists, conservation groups and institutions were invited to apply for grants ranging from \$500-\$1,500 to fund one-year research-focused projects on Illinois native plants that support the mission of the Illinois Native Plant Society. We are pleased to announce the awardees and congratulate them on their proposals! The 2018 grant awards are listed below. Descriptions of the projects and additional information about the INPS Research Fund Grant Program are available at <https://ill-inps.org/2018-research-grants/>. Thanks to all who submitted applications and stay tuned for more information about the call for proposals in 2019.

Jessamine Finch. Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University (graduate student): *How does the native plant production process affect the genetic diversity of restorations? A comparison of wild and commercially sourced milkweed (Asclepias spp.)*.

Dr. Emily Dangremond. Roosevelt University (Assistant Professor working with students and volunteers): *Genetic diversity and phenology in Illinois starflower populations*.

Jack Zinnen. University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (graduate student): *Assessing conservatism among wetland plants: Measuring plant traits, response to mycorrhizal inoculation, and nutrient pulses*.

Katherine Wenzell. Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University (graduate student): *Investigating genetic diversity and inbreeding of the state-endangered downy paintbrush (Castilleja sessiliflora)*.

Samantha Jo Danguilan. Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University (graduate student): *Does variation in flowering phenology affect reproductive success?*

Dr. Cecilia Hennessy. Eureka College (Assistant Professor working with students): *Influence of life history and ecosystem connectivity on genetic isolation of prairie plants in original prairie remnants*.

Anna Braum. The Wetlands Initiative: *Investigating the spatial distribution and population characteristics of Mimulus glabratus var. jamesii (yellow monkey flower) in an Illinois seep*.

Total award amount from State INPS budget: \$8,998.

An additional grant was referred to the Central Chapter's grant program.

2018 Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium

The 2018 Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium will be held April 13-15, at the John A. Logan Center for Business and Industry in Carterville, IL. Hosted by the Southern Chapter and its partners, the theme this year is Shawnee Natural Areas: Hotspots of Diversity.

Nearly 10 percent of Illinois' natural areas are found on Shawnee National Forest, making the national forest the second largest landowner in the state of such biological hotspots. About 400 plants and animal that are listed on the state's threatened or endangered species list occurs within the forest, as well as federally-listed species. Its 79 natural areas include 25 different natural communities, ranging from woodlands and glades to barrens and caves.



Cost: \$25.00 per person by March 31, 2018, \$30.00 afterwards (cost includes lunch). Download the Symposium Booklet at <https://ill-inps.org/2018-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium/> for complete details on speakers, sessions, and field trips. Registration may be made online or by mailing the form in the booklet.

In addition, there will be a native plant sale co-hosted by Green Earth Inc. outside of the venue. No admission fee is necessary to purchase plants

INPS 2018 Annual Gathering

Our annual gathering will be held June 8-10 at Governors State University in University Park, hosted by the Kankakee Torrent Chapter. The theme this year is the Southern section of the Lake Michigan Plain and the Northeastern Morainal Divisions. Details about the agenda, field trips, lodging, and camping opportunities will be available soon at <https://ill-inps.org/2018-annual-gathering/>. Highlights include chapter presentations about events, a chapter Brag Bucket, a variety of field trips, and a first family-focused field trip, A Day at the Indiana Dunes. Metra access to Chicago from University Park will make a wide variety of activities available to members and their families.

The Morainal division is a bow-shaped mess of moraines around the lower end of glacial Lake Chicago that held the lake back when the water levels were high. The Lake Plain was exposed when Lake Michigan water levels dropped to their current height. Over time, the north winds whipped down the length of Lake Michigan and deposited sand that was blown up into the Indiana Dunes. Opportunities will be presented to see natural communities in all of these areas.



Central Chapter Native Plant Sale

The Central Chapter will host its second annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 28 from 9 AM until 2 PM at the Illinois State Fairgrounds Commodities Pavilion, across from the Grandstand. More information and the plant list are available at <http://ill-inps.org/central-chapter-plant-sale/>.



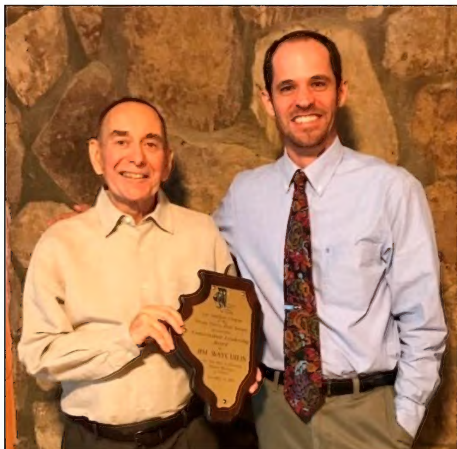
Native Plant Sales

For a listing of other native plant sales in Illinois, see <https://ill-inps.org/native-plant-sales/>. An interactive map makes it easy to find sales in your area.

Illinois Botanists Big Year 2017 Results

The 2nd annual Illinois Botanists Big Year has come to a close. The results are in and the winner for Most Species/Subspecies/Varieties Observed is Cassi Saari with 921 taxa! Runners up are 2nd: Mark Kluge, 3rd: Erin Faulkner, 4th: Sheri Moor, and 5th: Vanessa Voelker. Congrats to everyone who helped contribute to a worldwide database of nature observations and those who perhaps found more plants than they ever had before in a single year and place. There were almost 30,000 plant observations contributed by over 1,600 different people. A total of 1,457 species, subspecies, and varieties were identified, representing approximately 40% of the Illinois flora. Go to <https://ill-inps.org/illinois-botanists-big-year-2017/> to see more winners and learn how to join in the fun in 2018!

Southern Chapter Conservation Fund



L to R: Jim Waycuilis and Chris Benda.

In 2017, the Southern Chapter created a fund specifically set aside for conservation projects. Funding came from proceeds from our annual holiday dinner and a donation from the local Neighborhood Co-op grocery store. This year the dinner was combined with an award ceremony to honor a local conservation leader. The first recipient of this yearly award was Jim Waycuilis.

Jim was the site superintendent of the Cache River State Natural Area in Johnson County for 37 years. He was recognized for his efforts in promoting the Cache River region, expanding the natural area during his tenure, and educating the public about the importance of the region.

Sadly, Jim had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and died on March 8, 2018, shortly after receiving the award. Read a tribute to Jim by southern Illinois outdoor writer Les Winkler at this link:

http://thesouthern.com/lifestyles/recreation/column-james-waycuilis-was-a-tireless-advocate-for-the-cache/article_9e5a69ef-bdec-57e0-87af-b8acc4aa3f0c.html

A Short Biography of Robert H. Mohlenbrock

By Cassi Saari.

Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock (born September 26, 1931) is an American botanist and author. He is an authority on the plants of Illinois, with expertise in floristics, plant taxonomy, endangered species, and wetland flora.

Early life and education

Mohlenbrock began his studies of the flora of southern Illinois at an early age. During childhood walks in the woods and along the banks of the Big Muddy River, he recalls mentally noting the diverse flora and fauna around Murphysboro, Illinois. He names his greatest influence to be his high school biology teacher, Esther Smith. At Murphysboro High School, Smith led excursions to high quality natural areas and encouraged her students to work on natural history projects that yielded valuable contributions to the knowledge of Illinois flora and fauna. Mohlenbrock has described her as “a dedicated soul, a serious scientist who would provide for those who were serious.” Mohlenbrock's first project was presented at a 1950 science fair, called “Field Survey of Trees” of southern Illinois, completed with Kenneth Stewart. At least seven students in Smith's classes, including Mohlenbrock and Stewart, went on to attain PhDs in biology.

Mohlenbrock received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU). As a master's student under John W. Voigt, he completed his thesis on “The vegetation of Giant City State Park: a floristic and ecological study” in 1954. Between 1956 and 1957, Mohlenbrock was briefly a research chemist for Pressite Engineering Co. in St. Louis, Missouri. He completed his PhD in 1957 at Washington University. His PhD thesis was titled “A revision of the genus *Stylosanthes*” (a genus in the legume family).

Career

Soon following the completion of his PhD work, Mohlenbrock was hired at SIU to fill in for a single quarter for a faculty member who had taken an unexpected leave. The faculty member never returned, launching Mohlenbrock's long career as a botanist at SIU. He stayed at SIU for 33 years until his retirement in 1990, having served as chair of the botany department for 16 years. He was also curator of the SIU herbarium between 1960-1965. Mohlenbrock's department at SIU provided one of the few places in the country that encouraged students to conduct floristic studies in pursuit of a PhD. Mohlenbrock advised 90 graduate students during his tenure at SIU and has received numerous awards in recognition of his instruction.

Mohlenbrock has consulted for many organizations including the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and U.S. Forest Service. Since retirement, he has continued to teach wetland plant identification and other courses throughout the United States under his consulting company, Biotic Consultants (in partnership with his wife, Beverly A. Mohlenbrock). He has taught 328 of these week-long wetland plant classes in 32 states.

Legacy

In the 1960s and 70s, Mohlenbrock and Voigt continued their studies of southern Illinois to develop a conservation program for its natural areas. Through their surveys, they found that all of the bald cypress swamps in the area, with the exception of Horseshoe Lake, were privately owned. The land was primarily owned by a lumber company called Main Brothers, which had only left the land unlogged because the water had been too deep to drain. Partnerships between the state of Illinois, the Natural Land Institute of Rockford, and the Illinois chapter of the Nature Conservancy led to the purchase and protection of many of these remnant areas. The protected areas include Heron Pond – Little Black Slough Nature Preserve in Johnson County, a designated National Natural Landmark and wetland of international importance.

In 1982, with his son Mark W. Mohlenbrock, he co-founded the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society, an organization dedicated to “the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Southern Illinois.” In 1986, it expanded to become a state-wide organization, now known as the Illinois Native Plant Society, with seven active chapters, including the Southern Chapter.

This article was prepared for a Wikipedia page created for Robert H. Mohlenbrock as of March 4th, 2018 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_H._Mohlenbrock). Please see the online version for the Selected Publications and References sections.

In addition, the 14 volumes of the Illustrated Flora of Illinois by Robert H. Mohlenbrock are now available for download on the [Southern Illinois University \(SIU\) Press website](#).

365 Days on iNaturalist

By Mark Kluge (sanguinaria33 on iNaturalist), January 16, 2018.

My formal resolution for 2017 was typical – lose ten pounds. It was with that goal in mind that I went out every day over the holidays; it helped that the weather was not very harsh. It was only in late January that the idea of entering at least one observation on iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) every day of the year entered my mind. I acknowledged that such a goal would inevitably mean going out in some crappy weather, which would also mean accepting the challenge of something observable when many critters were holed up. Gray days close in on my mind like impenetrable fog, but I reasoned that getting outdoors in lousy conditions could only help with my first goal.

The year brought signs of an early spring; I observed skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) poking through the melting ice at a seepy place in Warrenville on February 13th. On February 17th I saw my first butterfly of the season—an eastern comma (*Polygonia comma*) on a mild day at Spears Woods. The next day was the Wild Things Conference, where Evan Barker asked if I would do the “Big Year” again. I replied that I was actually thinking of something a bit different, maybe concentrating more on finding species that I had never seen. I didn’t mention the “every day” idea.

The conference lasted all day and I was only out for a few minutes at lunchtime. There I saw a small green patch of Japanese pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*) among the prevailing dormant vegetation, and took a photo with my phone. I put the observation on iNat and thought, 49 days into the year, “Maybe you can really do this.” When I accompanied my son on several college visits, I took the camera along to record weeds, street trees, and in one case, a flock of wild turkeys.

March 8 was one of my biggest challenges. I saw nothing on the way to work then was stuck in an interminable meeting that lasted through lunchtime. I left the office as the light started to fade and headed to pick up my son at College of DuPage, thinking I could maybe find some geese in the pond there.



The iNat gods smiled, and in the fading sunlight near the roadside was a perched red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). I photographed it at 5:16 PM, probably my latest observation on a day when I had only one. The red-tailed hawk became a sort of motto bird for the year with 291 observations.

As the weather warmed, getting observations became easier – and the ticks exploded. It was the worst tick year in my memory. As an example, I visited sites in Grundy and Will counties on June 7th. I encountered a total of 25 ticks – many of them I spotted and removed as I walked, others I saw crawling up my pants later. I pulled the last one out of my hair as I showered that night. Amazingly none of them latched on. I became a picture of the high-fashion pants-tucked-in-socks naturalist.

My boots fell apart, and luckily my son did not like a pair he had bought online. My venerable macro zoom lens became a whirring, clunking liability that was retired by the fall and I learned to photograph plants with my birding lens—sort of. I electronically exchanged maps of rare beauties with friends. I learned to use online plant keys on my phone, when I had a signal. I traded messages like “WTH is this?” “IDK, maybe *Cirsium altissimum* rosette.” Those “WTH?” provided as many misses as hits, but that’s the price of trying to ID plants in all seasons.

In the end, 2017 was not about a contest—maybe a contest of wills between me and the elements—but the year became a journey. I walked over 1,700 miles (thanks, Fitbit). I put a lot of miles on the Prius. I photographed an endangered dragonfly in a bog with water overtopping my boot. I found a reported purple twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*) without any map, just by following some vague instinct. I developed a permanent stain on the left knee of some pants. I bushwhacked well into a degraded wetland only to find that I totally misinterpreted a map, and my orchid (*Platanthera*) quarry was a briar-y quarter mile away. And, I had a blast. On December 31, I photographed five birds, a squirrel, six plants, and two fungi. Then I went home and made the traditional (?) New Year’s Eve paella. Oh, and I still lost those ten pounds.

Mark Kluge is a natural areas steward at Theodore Stone Forest Preserve in Cook County, Illinois. He catalogued his daily observations of plants, animals, and other creatures on iNaturalist every day of 2017—totaling more than 3,600 observations of over 1,200 different species. iNaturalist is an online community of citizen scientists, experts, and all-around nature lovers that add to a worldwide database of biodiversity information. In 2017, Illinois plant enthusiasts uploaded over 20,000 observations of plants during the second annual Illinois Botanists Big Year (<http://ill-inps.org/illinois-botanists-big-year-2017/>).

Botany Basics: Terminal Bud

This is a new regular series that will focus on various aspects of plant identification.

What is a true terminal bud?

When observing woody plants in the dormant season, one has to rely on parts of the plant other than the leaves, like bark, buds, and twigs. This can be a challenging task, but it's really not as difficult as it may seem. I took on a serious study of twig identification this past winter and will share one aspect I found to be confusing at first, and it has to do with the terminal bud.

A true terminal bud, as the name implies, is the terminus of the twig with the bud at the end (see figure 1). Examples include buckeye, sweet gum, oak, hickory, ash and many others. But sometimes there is a bud at the end that is not a true terminal bud and this is called a pseudo-terminal bud (see figure 2). Distinguishing between these is the key.

The difference lies in the presence of a twig scar. When the twig extends beyond the last bud along the twig (called a lateral bud), there is no true terminal bud and the twig ends abruptly (see figure 3). But sometimes the twig that extends beyond the last lateral bud will break off, leaving the bud at the end of the twig looking like a terminal bud. So look at the twig beneath this bud. There will be a leaf scar. This is where the previous season's leaf occurred before it was shed in autumn. Opposite the leaf scar will be the twig scar. This is where the twig broke off. The presence of the twig scar indicates a pseudo-terminal bud.

A true terminal bud will have a leaf scar, but no twig scar. This feature is small and can be hard to see, but once you know what to look for, you will recognize the difference. – By Chris Benda.



Figure 1. True terminal bud.



Figure 2. Sycamore twig scar.



Figure 3. Twig extending past bud.

Focus on a Natural Area: Ozark Hills

This is a new regular feature that will profile natural areas listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI sites).

Ozark Hills Nature Preserve is a wonderful and generally underappreciated state nature preserve within the Trail of Tears State Forest in Union County. This is a Category II INAI site, which means the qualifying feature is the presence of endangered or threatened species. In this case, it qualifies as an INAI site for the occurrence of the state endangered pale hickory (*Carya pallida*).

This natural area also contains a diverse assemblage of conservative plant species, particularly along the nature trail within the preserve and especially in the spring. Walk the short 0.6-mile loop trail



starting to the right and spring-blooming plants and ferns abound. Notable species include red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), puttyroot orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Carey's sedge (*Carex careyana*), silvery spleenwort fern (*Deparia acrostichoides*), glade fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), wild azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), and yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*), among many others.



Wild azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*).



Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*).

To get to this preserve, turn west at the intersection of Highway 127 and State Forest Road in Union County north of Jonesboro. After entering Trail of Tears State Forest, turn left (south) after the white barn, drive through the low water crossing, and take an immediate left. Follow the road along the north side of the bluff to the gravel parking lot by picnic shelter at the end.

Plant Profiles

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Bloodroot, a member of the poppy family (Papaveraceae), is a joy to discover along the forest floor in March and April. These early blooms typically have eight white petals with numerous yellow stamens. The petals and stamens of individual flowers fall away within a day or two of opening. If the flower is pollinated and fertilized, one of the most amazing animal/plant interactions on our planet can be witnessed. The ovary will continue to grow and mature into an ellipsoidal capsule. Inside, the capsule seeds are produced with lipid/protein-rich structures called elaiosomes. Ants will drag these seeds back to their colony to feed their larvae the elaiosomes and dispose of the seeds in a nutrient-rich trash



Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

pile where the seeds can germinate. This use of ants for seed dispersal is called myrmecochory. – By Abel Kinser.

New State Champion Cottonwood Tree -- Largest Tree in Illinois



State Champion Cottonwood Tree. Bald Hill, Ogle County, IL.

In late 2017, a huge eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) was located in Ogle County, Illinois by Byron Forest Preserve District staff. The tree is located on a 160-acre preserve called Bald Hill, purchased by the district on November 22, 2017, and is the second highest location (930 feet) in Ogle County. The tree ousted the former state champion cottonwood and is currently the largest tree in the state with 491 points. The former largest tree in Illinois was the bald cypress in the Lower Cache River Access which has 487 points. The formula is the circumference in inches, plus the height in feet, plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of the crown in feet (canopy spread). In this case, the tree has a

circumference of 28.5 feet (342 in), height of 120 feet, and a crown with an average 116 feet ($342+120+29=491$).

The property is a gravel hill prairie and was acquired with help from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) and the Natural Land Institute (NLI). For more information about this new natural area for wildlife to call home and for the public to enjoy, please email Russell@byronforestpreserve.com or call (815) 234-8535 ext 219.

Thismia americana, a Chicago Endemic or an Elaborate Hoax?

An interesting analysis by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha of the Conservation Research Institute. Enjoy the full paper at <http://www.conservationresearchinstitute.org/assets/thismia-americana-endemic-or-hoax.pdf>.

Dr. Wilhelm's Field Notes

Information about Dr. Gerould Wilhelm's latest projects and research, plus upcoming and recent appearances, is available at <http://www.conservationresearchinstitute.org/dr.-wilhelm-s-field-notes.html>. Enjoy his most recent essay: *Building a Loving, Healthy Home for a Tree*.

"Of the 1879 plants native to the Chicago Region, only 110 (6%) can be classified as trees. Yet, most of us have a visceral affinity to trees that is significantly out of proportion to other groups such as shrubs, grasses, sedges, and wild flowers. People spend academic careers studying the matter. Bards wax poetically about them. Artists depict trees with special characteristics and moods in paintings. We like to sit under them and be near them. The "greening" of a landscape generally connotes planting them. Irrespective of the biome, peoples of the world generally cleave to trees—for whatever reason. So, how does our culture, here in the Midwest, manifest its love of trees? How might this love be more fulfilling for both us and the tree?" [Read more...](#)

Invasive Species News

Save the Date

The annual Illinois Invasive Species Symposium will be held Thursday, May 24, 9:30 AM – 4 PM at the University of Illinois Extension Office, 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL. More details to be announced.

Natural Resources Awareness Tool Developed for Herbicide Applicators

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has launched a new online tool identifying the location of the state's natural areas, threatened and endangered species, and other sensitive areas to assist landowners, producers, and applicators with pre-application planning of herbicides and pesticides, to help prevent and manage off-target drift. IDNR will be working with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and other partner organizations during the upcoming growing season to monitor natural areas and assist IDOA with reports of suspected herbicide damage to trees and other plants. The Natural Resources Awareness Tool for Applicators is located via <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Pages/Chemical-Drift-Awareness-Areas.aspx>.



Partnership to Map the Spread of Invasive Species Using Smartphones

A new information-sharing system will allow Southern Illinois conservation partners to map the spread of invasive species using their smartphones.

The Shawnee National Forest, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area are currently testing a shared database and cloud-based mapping system to track invasive species, prescribed fire and forest management data. Previously, the agencies were logging data independently of one another.

For the complete [article](#), visit The Southern Illinoisan Newspaper, <http://thesouthern.com/>, April 2, 2018 edition.

Web Links

HR 1054: The Botany Bill

Introduced February 14, 2017 by Representative Quigley (D-IL), this bipartisan legislation is intended to promote botanical research and botanical sciences capacity (including botanical education), generate demand for native plant materials, and authorize related federal activities. The "Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act" allows federal agencies to preserve unique American

landscapes and emphasizes the importance of protecting native plants and plant ecosystems. Learn more about the legislation and how you can support it at <https://botanybill.weebly.com/>.

Illinois HB5293

Introduced by Representative Jerry Costello II, there is a bill under consideration in the state legislature to amend the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act to add 2 farm bureau members to the Endangered Species Protection Board, among other changes. Read the bill at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=5293&GAID=14&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=111022&SessionID=91>

Grand Opening of the Loda Cemetery Prairie Observation Deck

Grand Prairie Friends invites you to the Grand Opening of the Prairie Observation Deck at the Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 14, 1 PM – 3 PM. Loda Cemetery Prairie is next to Pine Ridge Cemetery northwest of the village of Loda on U.S. Highway 45 approximately 30 miles north of Champaign-Urbana. Learn more and support Grand Prairie Friends by responding to their Event notice on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/587339708286108/>.

Follow Plant Profile and Peregrinations Blog

Follow Henry “Weeds” Eilers’ blog on the INPS website at https://ill-inps.org/category/henry_blog/. Profiled in the Spring 2017 edition of *The Harbinger* (Vol. 34 No. 1), Henry’s most recent blog post focuses on provenance—it matters.

Saving America’s Broken Prairie

“Scientists call the American prairie one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet. Its loss would have consequences the world over.” This case study by David J. Unger in *Undark Magazine* tells the story of the history and potential future of the American prairie within the context of agricultural production and energy geopolitics in North America’s Great Plains and Central Lowlands. The author is a Chicago-based writer and reporter who was previously the energy editor at *The Christian Science Monitor* in Boston, where he wrote and edited stories about the global energy transition toward cleaner fuels. Read the complete article at <https://undark.org/article/saving-americas-broken-prairie/>.

Botany Humor: “Changing Names”

Why is it that a lily is no longer a lily?
It's easy to throw up one's arms in disgust
To an untrained eye taxonomic changes can seem silly
But it's exciting to a botanist, they want to discuss

Why *Smilacina* is now *Maianthemum* or is it the other way around
While *Eupatorium* is a mess as I'm sure you have found
Cassia is *Chamaecrista*, *Psoralea* is *Orbexilum*
And I don't even know what family *Sambucus* is from!

It's not arbitrary, there is good reason
Why *Isopyrum* is *Enemion* and *Dentaria* is *Cardamine*
You won't find these flowers in every season
And *Hepatica* is sometimes placed in *Anemone*

Dodecatheon is now *Primula*, don't you know
Symphyotrichum off the tongue does not flow
The cute *Talinum* is now *Phemeranthus*
And why do people insist on planting *Miscanthus*?

The Scrophulariaceae has been torn apart
Aster is now old world only
The Orchidaceae still owns my heart
But many other families are left lonely

Pardon me, I do not mean to be crass
But at least a grass is still a grass!
However not much called a rush is a rush
So when people ask me common names I say “oh hush!”

Strophostyles and *Stylosanthes*
Polystichum and *Polytrichum*
Is it *Saxifraga* or *Micranthes*?
Anemonella or *Thalictrum*?

Now you see names are always changing
And this is no reason to fret
Those who are most interested in the naming
Will learn these new names I bet.

∞ By Chris Benda



ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 271

Carbondale, IL 62903

illinoisplants@gmail.com

www.ill-inps.org



Unfurling Ohio Buckeye
leaves (*Aesculus glabra*).

Photo: Laura Walther
Schaefer.

The Harbinger April 2018

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at <http://www.ill-inps.org/online-membership-form/>.

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!



Join us!

- ☐ New Member ☐ Address Change only
☐ Renewal ☐ Additional Donation

Name	_____
Street	_____
City	_____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number	_____ Membership Year _____
Email	_____

Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$25.00
☐ Family.....\$35.00
☐ Institutional (nonvoting)..\$20.00
☐ Supporting.....\$50.00
☐ Patron.....\$100.00
☐ Business.....\$125.00
☐ Life.....\$500.00
☐ *Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
☐ *Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
☐ *Eriogonum* (life).....\$3,000.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

☐ Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

Eriogonum, our scientific journal, is now available
digitally as well as in print.
Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.

☐ Email only ☐ Postal Mail only ☐ Both

Chapter Affiliation

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central (Springfield) | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast (Chicago) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Glen (Westville) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quad Cities (Rock Island) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Prairie (Bloomington) | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern (Carbondale) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kankakee Torrent | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Uncertain _____ |

I would like to help with:

- ☐ Leadership & Organization (serving on
board at State or Chapter level)
☐ Leading Field Trips & Tours
☐ Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars

- ☐ Giving Workshops &/or Seminars ☐ Public Media/Communications
☐ Public Speaking ☐ Writing/Submitting articles
☐ Fund Raising ☐ Photography
☐ Website Assistance/Management ☐ Other: _____

My area of expertise: _____